



What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

March 2009

EURYDICE

January 30 – March 1 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Author of the Alley's outstanding success *The Clean House*, Sarah Ruhl creates a tale based on the Greek myth of Orpheus that is "exhilarating" as "we enter a surreal world, as lush and limpid as a dream" (*The New Yorker*). On the day Eurydice is to marry her true love Orpheus, a misstep sends her to the surreal depths of the Underworld, where she has a surprising reunion and ultimately must decide whether to follow Orpheus back to the land of the living. *The New York Times* described *Eurydice* as "a magical play with gripping emotional potency...a love letter to the world..."

Recommended for mature audiences.

Neuhaus Stage

Tickets: \$40 - \$55

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

February 20 – March 22 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

In this hilarious romp, Sheridan Whiteside, theatre critic, lecturer, and radio personality, who, arriving to dine at the home of the prominent Stanley family in a small Midwestern town, slips on their doorstep and injures his hip. A tumultuous six weeks of confinement follow, during which Whiteside monopolizes the living room and takes over the Stanley household. Before it's over, the outrageous has become commonplace. This large cast comedy will feature Alley Company members playing a most extravagant array of eccentric characters.

Recommended for general audiences.

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$26 - \$67

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

February 24 – March 7 (Times vary)

Broadway Across America

You'll believe a car can fly! CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG is everything you could want in a musical – and more. Sensational sets, stunning special effects, an irresistible story, and an unforgettable Sherman Brothers score, including memorable classics like "Truly Scrumptious", "Hushabye Mountain", and, of course, the Oscar®-nominated title song, all add up to a Broadway blockbuster the whole family will love.

The enthralling adventure of CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, the magical car that sails the seas and flies through the air, has been a family favorite since the original motion picture captivated the world's imagination in 1968. Chitty's eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts, and his children, Jemima and Jeremy, join the truly scrumptious Truly Scrumptious and kooky Grandpa Potts in outwitting the dastardly Baron and Baroness of Vulgaria in their attempt to steal the flying car for themselves.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$21 - \$70

(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com

MARIE

February 26 – March 8 (Times vary)

Houston Ballet

A child bride. A spoiled party girl. A doting mother. A controversial queen. Marie Antoinette has long fascinated historians and artists alike. Inspired by the story of her life, artistic director Stanton Welch will create a new full-length ballet about the French monarch whose life culminated in the violent events of the French Revolution. London-based designer Kandis Cook will create costumes and sets for the production. Music director Ermanno Florio will arrange the score, featuring music by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$17 - \$150

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

MOZART'S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 18

February 26 – March 1 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Supreme Mozart interpreter Christian Zacharias will both lead the orchestra and play the piano—simultaneously! He'll manage the concerto's interplay between woodwinds, piano and full orchestra, then enthrall you with its ecstatic finale.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

ANCIENT AIRS AND DANCES

March 4 (7:30 pm)

Houston Chamber Symphony

Marc Teicholz, guitarist extraordinaire once again joins the Houston Chamber Symphony in Zilkha Hall. We know you will enjoy his impeccable and stylish artistry in the Italian composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's exquisite and intimate Concerto in D Major. The brilliant Concerto No. 1 by Dmitri Shostakovich will receive a vivid interpretation by Russian pianist Zoya Shuhatovich and virtuoso trumpeter Theresa Hanebury. Marking the recent death of American composer Norman Dello Joio, the orchestra presents his beautifully somber "Largo" from the Pulitzer Prize winning *Meditations on Ecclesiastes*. Respighi's enchanting *Ancient Airs and Dances* for string orchestra gives this exciting and kaleidoscopic concert its name.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$15 - \$30

(713) 315-2525 / houstonchambersymphony.org

SIR JAMES GALWAY, FLUTE

March 4 (8:00 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

Sir James Galway, nicknamed "the man with the golden flute," is widely regarded as both a supreme interpreter of the classical flute repertory and a consummate entertainer. As the most televised and recorded classical artist performing today, Sir James tours extensively and has sold over 30 million albums! He will be joined by groundbreaking pianist and host of National Public Radio's popular classical music show "From the Top" Christopher O'Riley.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$67

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

A LITTLE DAY MUSIC

March 4 (Noon)

Da Camera of Houston

A Little Day Music concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season.

Wortham Center's Grand Foyer

Tickets: Free

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

JOE GOODE PERFORMANCE GROUP

March 6 (8:00 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

The fearlessly innovative choreographer Joe Goode brings his San Francisco-based company to Houston in two works for an evening of riveting dance theater. Goode's latest collaboration with puppeteer extraordinaire Basil Twist, *Wonderboy* involves the magical, expressive fragility of a puppet manipulated by the company's dancers. his new collaboration with puppeteer extraordinaire Basil Twist, and the re-mounting of an iconic Joe Goode masterwork *The San Francisco Chronicle* hails, "Just as *Wonderboy* crosses over and joins the human realm, we all join his, where dance can defeat gravity (of both kinds) and send even the most earthbound soul aloft." As a companion piece, Goode re-mounts his iconic masterwork *Maverick Strain*. A deconstruction of Arthur Miller's screenplay for the film *The Misfits*, *Maverick Strain* parodies the macho cowboy myth using song, speech, movement and cross-dressing.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$22 - \$47

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

March 6-8 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Take a ride in a yellow submarine as the group Classical Mystery Tour, featuring original members from the Broadway sensation *Beatlemania* sing, play and perform beloved Beatles tunes. You'll hum along to "Penny Lane", "Yesterday", "All You Need Is Love" and "Hey Jude". The first half of the evening will feature other Beatles-era hits like "Bridge Over Troubled Water", "California dreamin'" and "Surfin' USA".

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$110

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

AARON COPLAND'S RODEO

March 7 (10:00 am & 11:30 am)

Houston Symphony

Rustle up your cowboy boots and hat for a showdown of music from the Wild West. Hear Copland's famous Hoedown from the ballet Rodeo. Conjure up images of the Lone Ranger with Rossini's William Tell Overture. You'll also tap your toes to Comin' Round' the Mountain, and Woody's Round-Up from Toy Story.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$12 - \$19

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

BUFFALO BAYOU REGATTA

March 7 (11:00 am)

Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Test your endurance in Texas' largest kayak and canoe race! Whether you paddle competitively or just for fun, the Buffalo Bayou Regatta is a great way to see Houston from a whole new angle. Join in the fun at the 35th annual 15-mile canoe and kayak race through the heart of our city. Prizes for kayakers, canoers, Corporate Cup, Scout Challenge Cup and Styrofoam Cup winners!

Not a paddler? Catch the fun and cheer on the racers at the Finish Line! Activities will include music, an icehouse with food and drinks and local Outdoor Organization booths.

Sesquicentennial Park

Tickets: \$40

(713) 752-0314 / buffalobayou.org

RICHARD PRICE

March 9

Inprint

RICHARD PRICE, author of seven novels, including Clockers, Freedomland, and Samaritan, has written his first novel in five years, Lush Life, which was hailed by Gary Shteyngart as "the novel about gentrified New York, circa right now, that we've been waiting for. Richard Price understands what's happened to our beloved city, he writes dialogue like a genius, and he absolutely, genuinely cares. Unforgettable."

Russell Banks says of Lush Life, "Richard Price has become our post-modern Balzac. Except that he's a whole lot funnier than Balzac and writes the language we hear and speak better than any novelist around, living or dead, American or French."

Michiko Kakutani writes in The New York Times, "Lush Life is an X-ray of the street in the age of no broken windows and 'quality of life' squads, from a writer whose tough, gritty brand of social realism...reads like a movie in prose."

It's no wonder: Price is also the award-winning scriptwriter for the HBO series, The Wire.

Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$5

(713) 521-2026 / inprintheouston.org

BRONFMAN'S BRAHMS SECOND

March 12-15 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Brahms' magnificent second concerto is grander in scale than his four symphonies as well as any concerto written before its time. Hear German romanticism at its greatest depth and excitement, "played with commanding virtuosity." (The New York Times)

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

MASTERS OF MOVEMENT

March 12-22 (Times vary)

Houston Ballet

Houston Ballet introduces three important works into its repertoire, masterful works by master choreographers. Leaves are Fading is a lyrical study in wistful dreaminess by famed English choreographer Antony Tudor. The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude is all Forsythe, a sexy and energetic work that fully lives up to its name. Jiří Kylián's Soldiers' Mass is a poignant commentary on the destruction and devastation of war. This is a program not to be missed.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$17 - \$150

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

BILL COSBY

March 13 (8:00 pm)

Houston Symphony

One of the most influential stars in America today, Bill Cosby has captivated audiences for decades with his uncanny ability to point out the humor in our lives and touch our hearts. Don't miss this night of stand-up comedy with the incomparable Bill Cosby.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$45 - \$110

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

SALZBURG CHAMBER SOLOISTS

March 14 (8:00 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

Straight from the musical heart of Austria comes this ensemble of first rate international young musicians who perform orchestral chamber music with the freedom of soloists. Under the direction of violinist Lavard Skou-Larson, the Salzburg Chamber Soloists will perform a spirited program of works including Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major for violin, viola and orchestra; Villa-Lobos's Bacchiana Brasileira, No. 9; and Haydn's Symphony No. 49, "La Passione."

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$22 - \$57

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

MARIACHI INVITATIONAL

March 14 (6:30 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$30

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

BROADWAY BABIES

March 17 (7:30 pm)

Bayou City Performing Arts

Act I features Bayou City Chorale (men and women) with chamber orchestra in their second stand-alone performance. BCC will sing a 35-minute choral work The Old Turtle, based on the best-selling children's book.

Act II will feature Gay Men's Chorus of Houston performing the very best of the Broadway belters: "One Night Only" from Dream Girls, "Take me or Leave Me" from Rent, and more!

A portion of the proceeds from this concert will go to Texas Children's Hospital.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$55

(713) 521-7464 / bayoucityperformingarts.org

FRANCO DE VITA

March 19 (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$75 - \$90

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

BAROQUE MEDITATION

March 20 (8:00 pm)

Mercury Baroque

For this unique chamber music concert, Antoine Plante trades in his baton for the viola da gamba. Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri leads off an intimate evening of German vocal works featuring Canadian singing group Les Voix Baroques.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$47

(713) 533-0080 / mercurybaroque.org

TCHAIKOVSKY'S PATHETIQUE SYMPHONY

March 20-22 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

The Houston Symphony presents a rising star in the international conducting world. Kirill Karabits will make his North American conducting debut. The featured work will be Tchaikovsky's famed Symphony No. 6 in B minor.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

ROY HARGROVE QUINTET

March 21 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

Waco native trumpeter Roy Hargrove has firmly established himself as among the premier players in jazz and beyond. He returns to Da Camera Jazz after burning up the stage in his appearance with Directions in Music in 2005.

"a fiery yet precision-honed brand of modern hard bop." - The New York Times

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$30 - \$50

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

LIGHTING THE WAY

March 21 (7:30 pm)

Musiqua

Musiqua and Stages Repertory Theatre collaborate on a program that includes music by Mary-Ellen Childs, George Crumb and Pierre Jalbert, a world premiere music-and-light show by Anthony Brandt and lighting designer Christina Giannelli and a theatrical presentation created to celebrate the Pulitzer Prize.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$18 - \$32

(713) 315-2525 / musiquahouston.org

TASTE OF CHAOS TOUR FEATURING THURSDAY

March 21 (6:30 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$25.25 - \$28.25

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

LES MISÉRABLES

March 24 – April 5 (Times vary)

Theatre Under The Stars

Adapted from the classic Victor Hugo novel, the musical theatre phenomenon Les Misérables has a score by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg (Miss Saigon), with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer. One of the world's best-loved musicals, it is the longest running musical in London's West End, and arguably the longest continuously-running musical in the world. This immensely popular entertainment has been seen by over 53 million people worldwide in 38 countries and been performed in 21 languages. There are over 35 recordings of the score, again in several languages. Following the life of the fugitive Jean Valjean, his foster daughter Cosette, and his relentless pursuer Javert against a backdrop of the French Revolution, Les Misérables reminds us that we are each part of the same human family—that whatever our outward differences may be, our longings for individual liberty and peace are the same.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$32 - \$95.50

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

PINK AT THE BROWN

March 26 (7:30 pm)

Pink Ribbons Project

Pink Ribbons Project will return in March 2009 to the Wortham Center for its sixth benefit performance gala of music, dance, drama and art entitled "Pink at the Brown." For the first time the city's premier arts organizations from the Houston Theater District will join forces on the same stage to raise funds for breast cancer.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$50 - \$1,000

(713) 524-7465 / pinkribbons.org

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET: DREAMS AND PRAYERS

March 27 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

The St. Lawrence String Quartet's electrifying performances have dazzled audiences all over the world. The Quartet returns to Da Camera joined by two close friends: American opera star, soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, and clarinet virtuoso Todd Palmer.

Osvaldo Golijov, called "a huge talent" by Alex Ross in The New Yorker, made music history in 1994 with his imaginative work for string quartet and klezmer clarinet. Premiered in 2007, Roberto Sierra's Songs from the Diaspora are moving new settings of texts by the Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain in 1492. Soulful masterpieces of Schubert and Mendelssohn interweave with the hauntingly beautiful newer works.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$22 - \$38

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

March 27-28 (Times vary)

Society for the Performing Arts

Join the celebration as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) marks its 50th anniversary of bringing African-American artistic expression and the American modern dance tradition to the world's stages. The genius of Alvin Ailey changed forever the perception of American dance; today the legacy continues with Judith Jamison's remarkable vision and the extraordinary artistry of the Company's dancers. A highlight of AAADT's 50th anniversary celebration will be the eagerly anticipated collaboration between AAADT and Sweet Honey In The Rock. Performing live on stage with the dancers, the Grammy Award-winning female a cappella ensemble will match their soulful harmonies and intricate rhythms to company member Hope Boykin's powerful choreography.

Beauty, spirit, hope and passion know no bounds. That is the power of Ailey.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$62

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

WARSI QAWWALS OF RAMPUR

March 28 (8:00 pm)

Indo-American Association

Qawwali meaning divine utterance is inextricably linked to the Sufi tradition, which strives to realize divine unity by letting go of all notions of duality. The Chishti order of Sufis celebrates this divine union through the vehicle of *qawwali* music in which the ritual of powerful rhythm and ceaseless repetition of divine phrases arouses mystical love, even divine ecstasy, which is at the core of the Sufi experience. Warsis of Rampur, an ensemble of nine, is the fourth generation of Qawwals who render the Qawwali in its original and authentic genre. And, they have been enthralling audiences with this divine music around the world for more than four decades!

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: TBA

(281) 648-0422 / iaahouston.com

